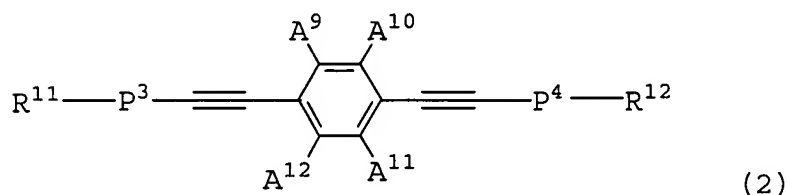


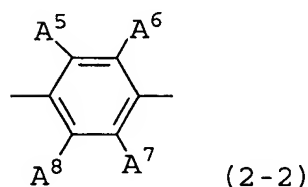
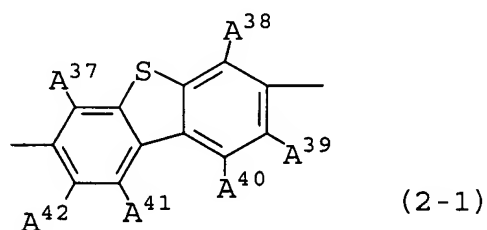
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) A compound represented by the formula (2) having a phenylacetylene structure:



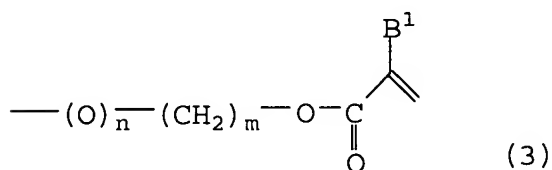
wherein A⁹ to A¹² each independently stands for a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, an alkyl or alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms optionally substituted with at least one fluorine atom; P³ and P⁴ each stands for the formula (2-1) or (2-2), with at least one of P³ and P⁴ standing for the formula (2-1),



wherein A³⁷ to A⁴² in the formula (2-1) and A⁵ to A⁸ in the formula (2-2) each independently stands for a hydrogen atom, a fluorine

atom, or an alkyl or alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms optionally substituted with at least one fluorine atom;

R^{11} and R^{12} each independently stands for a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a cyano group, $-SF_5$, $-NCS$, a 4- R^{23} -(cycloalkyl) group, a 4- R^{23} -(cycloalkenyl) group, an R^{24} -(O) q group, or a group represented by the formula (3), wherein R^{23} stands for a hydrogen atom, or a straight or branched alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms optionally substituted with at least one fluorine atom, R^{24} stands for a straight or branched alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms optionally substituted with at least one fluorine atom, or a straight or branched alkenyl or alkynyl group having 3 to 12 carbon atoms optionally substituted with at least one fluorine atom, q denotes 0 or 1,



wherein n denotes 0 or 1, and m denotes an integer of 1 to 20, B^1 stands for a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, when both R^{11} and R^{12} stand for a group represented by the formula (3), n , m , and B^1 in one group of the formula (3) may be the same as or different from those of the other.

4. (Original) The compound of claim 3, wherein at least one of R^{11} and R^{12} in the formula (2) stands for a group represented by the formula (3).

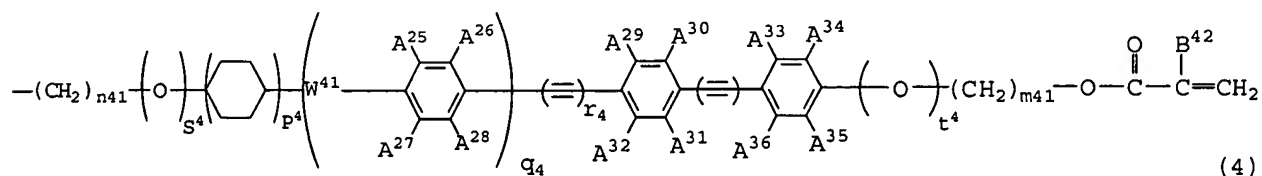
5. (Original) The compound of claim 4, wherein when all of A^9 to A^{12} in the formula (2) each stands for an alkyl group, the number of carbon atoms in each group is not less than two.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) A liquid crystal composition comprising at least one compound represented by the formula (2) of claim 3.

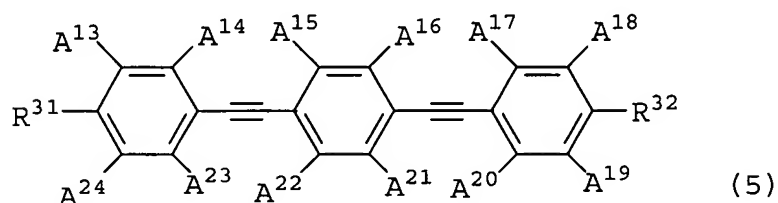
8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The liquid crystal composition of claim 7, further comprising at least one liquid crystalline compound represented by any of the following formulae (4) to (7):



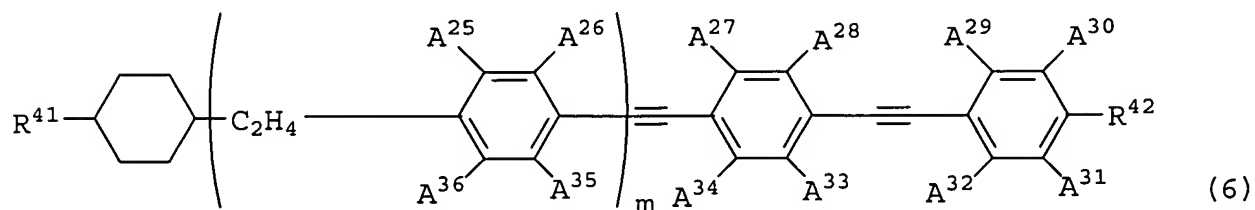
wherein A^{25} to A^{36} each independently stands for a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, or an alkyl or alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon

atoms optionally substituted with at least one fluorine atom; B^{41} and B^{42} each stands for a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; p^4 , q^4 , r^4 , s^4 , and t^4 each denotes 0 or 1, provided that when q^4 is 0, at least one of A^{29} to A^{36} stands for an alkyl or alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms optionally substituted with at least one fluorine atom; m^{41} and n^{41} each denotes an integer of 0 to 14, provided that when s^4 is 1, n^{41} is not 0, and when t^4 is 1, m^{41} is not 0; W^{41} stands for a single bond, $-CH_2CH_2-$, or $-C\equiv C-$;

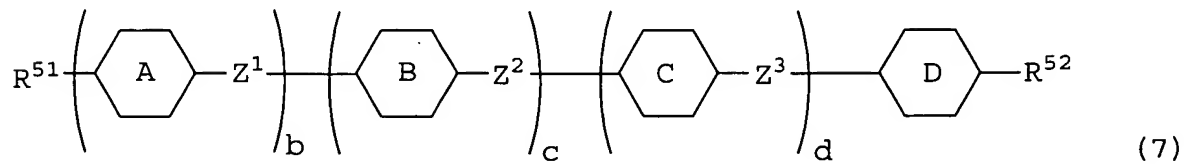


wherein A^{13} to A^{24} each independently stands for a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, an alkyl or alkoxy group having 1 to 14 carbon atoms optionally substituted with at least one fluorine atom, with at least one of A^{13} to A^{24} standing for an alkyl or alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms optionally substituted with at least one fluorine atom; R^{31} and R^{32} each independently stands for a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a cyano group, $-SF_5-$, $-NCS$, a 4- R^{33} -(cycloalkyl) group, a 4- R^{33} -(cycloalkenyl) group, or an $R^{34}-(O)q^{31}$ group, wherein R^{33} stands for a hydrogen atom, or a straight or branched alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms optionally substituted with at least one fluorine atom, R^{34} stands for a

straight or branched alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms optionally substituted with at least one fluorine atom, and q^{31} denotes 0 or 1;

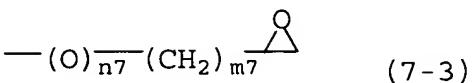
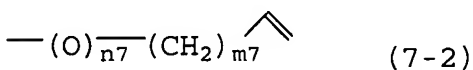
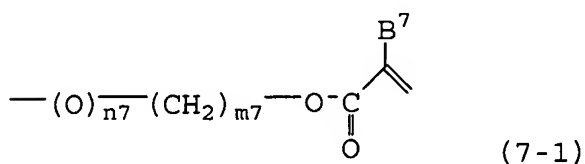


wherein A^{25} to A^{36} each independently stands for a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, or an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms; m denotes 0 or 1; R^{41} stands for a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms optionally substituted with at least one fluorine atom; R^{42} stands for R^{41} , a fluorine atom, a cyano group, a 4- R^{43} -(cycloalkyl) group, a 4- R^{43} -(cycloalkenyl) group, or an R^{44} -(O) q^{41} group, wherein R^{43} stands for a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms optionally substituted with at least one fluorine atom, R^{44} stands for a straight or branched alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms optionally substituted with at least one fluorine atom, and q^{41} denotes 0 or 1;



wherein Rings A, B, C, and D each independently stands for 1,4-phenylene, 1,4-cyclohexylene, 1,4-cyclohexenylene, 4,1-cyclohexenylene, 2,5-cyclohexenylene, 5,2-cyclohexenylene, 3,6-cyclohexenylene, 6,3-cyclohexenylene, 2,5-pyrimidinediyl, 5,2-pyrimidinediyl, 2,5-pyridinediyl, 5,2-pyridinediyl, 2,5-dioxanediyl, or 5,2-dioxanediyl, and at least one hydrogen atom on any of Rings A, B, C, and D may be substituted with a fluorine atom; R⁵¹ and R⁵² each stands for a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a fluoromethyl group, a difluoromethyl group, a trifluoromethyl group, a fluoromethoxy group, a difluoromethoxy group, a trifluoromethoxy group, a cyano group, an alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 3 to 12 carbon atoms, an alkynyl group having 3 to 12 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, an alkenyloxy group having 3 to 12 carbon atoms, an alkynyloxy group having 3 to 12 carbon atoms, an alkoxyalkyl group having 2 to 16 carbon atoms, an alkoxyalkenyl group having 3 to 16 carbon atoms, or a group represented by the formula (7-1), (7-2), or (7-3), wherein m⁷ denotes an integer of 1 to 12, n⁷ denotes 0 or 1, wherein at least one methylene group of said alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl group may be replaced with an oxygen, sulfur, or silicon atom, and said groups may be straight or branched; Z¹, Z², Z³ each independently stands for -COO-, -OCO-, -OCH₂-, -CH₂O-, an alkylene group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, an

alkenylene group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, an alkynylene group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, or a single bond; b, c, and d each independently denotes 0 or 1, with $b + c + d \geq 1$:



10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) A polymer obtained by polymerization of at least one compound of claim 4.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) A polymer obtained by polymerization of the liquid crystal composition of claim 7.

14-39. (Cancelled)